**Production of crude oil from oil wells**

4612. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state

(a) the production of crude oil presently from various oil wells in the country;

(b) whether Government have asked for any foreign assistance for production of crude oil; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The production of Crude oil in 1994-95 was about 32.24 million MT.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**LPG Agencies at Block/Tehsil levels in Madhya Pradesh**

4613. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to allot LPG agencies at Block/Tehsil level in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme and the places likely to be covered during 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) LPG distributorships are opened at places having population of 20,000 and above as per 1991 census, in a phased manner, subject to product availability and economic viability of the location. Accordingly, in addition to 54 LPG distributorships included in the current LPG marketing plan 1992-94, for which selection is underway, 88 LPG distributorships have been included in the new LPG marketing plan 1994-96 for Madhya Pradesh.

Keeping in view the expected increase in the availability of product and the demand from the smaller towns, it has been decided by the Government to include adjoining villages also for working out the viability of LPG distributorships for smaller towns.

**Cost escalation of public sector projects of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**

4614. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whehter it is a fact that the cost of the public sector projects of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has soared by Rs. 3500 crore over the projected figures; if so, the reasons therefor and the original and the revised costs of each such project; and

(b) by when the Kandla-Bhatinda Project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The details of the original and the revised costs approved by the Government and the reasons for cost overrun in respect of the projects costing more than Rs. 100 crores under implementation by the Public Sector Undertakings in the oil sector are given in the statement annexed. (See below)

(b) Kandla-Bhatinda Project Pipeline is likely to be mechanically completed by November, 1995.